

# Idaho Power Transmission Line 903 Brownlee to Quartz Junction Cultural Resource Survey for FERC Relicensing. Technical Report

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## **1. INTRODUCTION:**

The study reports on the results of the archaeological survey of a 40 foot wide corridor along 43 miles of an existing 230 KV line from Brownlee Dam to a point northeast of Baker City, Oregon.

## **2. CONCLUSIONS:**

Three archaeological sites, and five isolates recorded by this survey are located on BLM lands withdrawn by FERC. Recommendations are made for potential eligibility by the consulting archaeologist (Mauser 1997: p. 5); and supplemented in Draft Application Report E.4 by Idaho Power Company staff archaeologist (Appendix E-4G, pp. E.4-141 to E.4-142).

BLM agrees with the consulting archaeologist and IPC staff archaeologist that the isolated finds are Not Eligible for the National Register, and no further management or protection is needed (the isolated finds are IPC 903-6, IPC 903-7, IPC 903-8, IPC 903-9, IPC 903-11, described in Mauser 1997, pp 3-4).

The three remaining sites are assessed by the BLM as follows:

	<u>Eligibility Assessments</u>		
	<u>Mauser (1997)</u>	<u>Idaho Power (App E-4G)</u>	<u>BLM</u>
IPC 903-1	Potentially Eligible	Eligible	Potentially Eligible
IPC 903-3	Probably Not Eligible	Eligible	Not Eligible
IPC 903-4	Undetermined	Eligible	Potentially Eligible

*IPC 903-1* is a sparse, low diversity upland lithic scatter, with uncertain potential for depth, but potential for sourcing obsidian. BLM considers the site potentially eligible, and agrees with the consulting archaeologist that the site should be tested and evaluated.

BLM does not agree with the Idaho Power assessment on eligibility for *IPC 903-3*, a historic debris scatter (Appendix E-4G). BLM considers the site to be Not Eligible for the National Register because, as described, the site appears superficial, is unlikely to offer data beyond that recorded on the site form, and its information potential is low. The site is not clearly associated with an important household, settlement pattern, event, activity, transportation route, or person.

IPC 903-4, a historic ditch originating at Crystal Palace Gulch, is likely a component of a larger historic landscape dating from the 1880s to 1920s in the vicinity of the Crystal Palace Mine (ca 1881). BLM considers that the ditch possesses sufficient integrity of location and visibility, to be potentially eligible to the National Register as a component of a larger historic landscape in the Sparta mining district.

#### **Study Adequacy:**

1. If the FERC withdrawal is approximately 40 foot wide corridor for the transmission line; short segments of the paralleling transmission line access road on BLM lands fall outside this corridor, but should have been included in the Area of Potential Effects. These locations have not been surveyed for cultural resources.

2. The Phillips, Cranston, Newt Young, Dry Gulch, Duncan, and Perkins irrigation ditches are historic linear sites and components of the agricultural landscapes crossed by the transmission line. The transmission line also crosses the Basche Ditch on the west side of Keating Valley. Several of these ditches date from 1880-1930 and made a contribution to local agricultural development. The study mentions these ditches but does not treat them as historic sites. However, assuming these ditches are presently operated under valid existing prior rights, and would therefore be avoided by project operations, operation of the transmission line should have no effect upon these linear features.

3. Some minor corrections are needed on the site forms as follows:

IPC 903-6: map shows location in Township 8S Range 46East (not Range 47E)

IPC 903-8: map shows location is on BLM, not private land

IPC 903-9: map shows location is on BLM, not private land

IPC 903-10: map shows location is on private, not BLM land.

4. "Potentially Eligible" means that, pending further investigation/evaluation, for management purposes a site will be treated "as though" it were eligible by the agency charged with management of the lands and resources (BLM).

5. The objective of the study was to identify and evaluate archaeological material cultural remains and the study accomplished these stated goals.

#### **BLM Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Conclusion:** BLM considers the five isolated finds and Site # IPC 903-3 to be Not Eligible to the National Register. Sites IPC 903-1 and IPC 903-4 are considered by BLM to be potentially eligible for the National Register.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Corrections need to be made to ownership, and legal locations on the site forms, as indicated above.

2. Portions of the power line access roads, on BLM land outside the withdrawal corridor, that are associated with and used by the applicant for travel along the transmission line, are part of the APE and need to be surveyed for cultural resources. A request for cultural inventory of transmission line access roads was previously made in a letter to Idaho Power on March 7, 2000.

3. The historic ditches should be documented as linear sites.
4. Neither this 903 transmission line study, nor other transmission line studies, explicitly addresses potential for eligible traditional cultural properties (as defined by National Register Bulletin 38) that might be present or affected by transmission lines. A study request to include identification, evaluation and potential effects to traditional cultural properties in transmission line corridors was made in a letter to Idaho Power on March 7, 2000. The E.4 "Report on Historical and Archaeological Resources" needs to address specifically whether or not there are National Register eligible traditional cultural properties that could be affected by transmission lines.
5. A final determination of eligibility is needed to assess effects of the FERC 1971 project under regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Studies are needed to make final determinations for IPC 903-1 and IPC 903-4.